January, 2000	32,958	6,471
February, 2000	45,233	16,923
March, 2000	40,924	3,484

Losses of Agricultural Produce

†506. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI D.P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total storage capacity *vis-a-vis* agricultural production in the country;

(b) whether Government have any information about the percentage of losses that took place in storing the production during last three years;

(c) if so, what is the value of loss, in rupees, to be suffered by the country on account of such damage of foodgrains; and

(d) what are the new schemes to reduce these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Government procures foodgrains through its agency, the Food Corporation of India under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. It procures only 15% to 20% of the total agricultural produce. The FCI has total storage capacity (owned and hired/Covered and Covered Area Plinth) of 27.32 million tonnes against the total stocks of 25.13 million tonnes with utilisation of 92% all over the country as on 1.6.2000.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) The losses that have occurred in the storage of foodgrins (Wheat, Rice and Paddy in terms of price) during the last three years and its value are tabulated hereunder:—

Quantity in lakh tonnes
Value in Rs. Crores

Year	Quantity of loss	Value	Total qty. issued	% of loss
1996-97 (Prov.)	2.50	68.17	561.74	0.45
1997-98 (Prov.)	1.81	137.84	452.40	0.40
1998-99 (Prov.)	1.51	130.08	377 50	0.40

(d) To minimize the storage and transit losses, the steps that have been taken are as under:—

(i) Administrative measures such as tightening of security of depots, intensifying surprise checks at the loading/unloading points ensuring regualr stock verificaiton etc.

(ii) Installation of weighbridges in depots.

(iii) Minimising multiple handling, transhipment and movement inopen wagons.

(iv) Induction of Central Industrial security Force at vulnerable depots to curb theft and pilferage

(v) Adoption of 50 kg. Packing in a phased manner and encouraging machine stitching of bags.

(vi) Food Corporation of India has issued a set of instructions to control the operational transit losses prescribing a systematic approach to achieve transparency and accountability.

(vii) Enforcement of strict quality specifications at the time of procurement and strict preservaiton measures during storage of foodgrains.

(viii) Augmentation of covered capacity and minimizing Covered Area Plinth storage as far as possible.